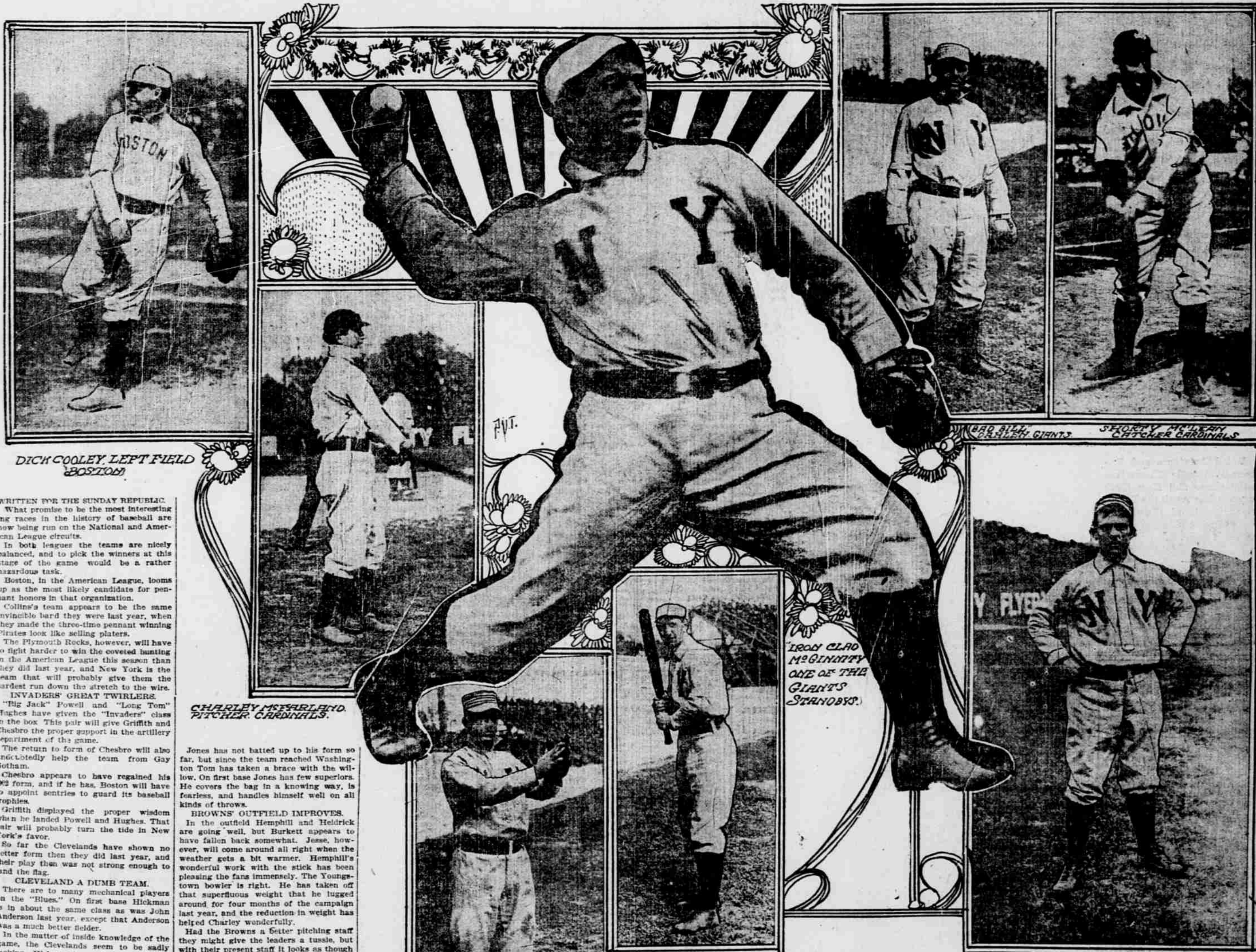


SPECIAL : SPORT : SECTION.

GROUP OF BASEBALL STARS CAUGHT IN PRACTICE BY A REPUBLIC CAMERA.

DICK COOLEY, LEFT FIELD
BOSTON

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

What promise to be the most interesting races in the history of baseball are now being run on the National and American League circuits.

In both leagues the teams are nicely balanced, and to pick the winners at this stage of the game would be a rather hazardous task.

Boston, in the American League, looms up as the most likely candidate for pennant honors in that organization.

Collins' team appears to be the same invincible band they were last year, when they made the three-time pennant winning Pirates look like selling platters.

The Plymouth Rocks, however, will have to fight harder to win the coveted hunting in the American League this season than they did last year, and New York is the team that will probably give them the hardest run down the stretch to the wire.

INVADE'S GREAT TWIRLERS.

"Big Jack" Powell and "Long Tom" Hughes have given the "Invaders" class in the box. This pair will give Griffith and Chesbro the proper support in the artillery department of this game.

The return to form of Chesbro will also undoubtedly help the team from Gay Gotham.

Chesbro appears to have regained his 1902 form, and if he has, Boston will have to appoint sentries to guard its baseball trophies.

Griffith displayed the proper wisdom when he landed Powell and Hughes. That pair will probably turn the tide in New York's favor.

So far the Clevelanders have shown no better form than they did last year, and their play thus far was not strong enough to land the flag.

CLEVELAND A DUMB TEAM.

There are too many mechanical players on the "Blues." On first base Hickman is in about the same class as was John Anderson last year, except that Anderson was a much better fielder.

In the matter of inside knowledge of the game, the Clevelanders seem to be sadly lacking. Hickman is not the only headless player on the team.

Lash, Flick and Day, who answer to the charge of being the Clevelanders' outfielders, have never started the baseball world by any particular brilliancy.

Finally, their third baseman, is a star in every particular, as is Captain LaJoie, but Cleveland's lineup contains too many purely mechanical ball players to make a world beater out of it.

In the box the Blues are better off than they were last year. With Bernard, Jose, Moore and Donahue in form, Cleveland is well enough taken care of in that department.

Finally, their third baseman, is a star in every particular, as is Captain LaJoie, but Cleveland's lineup contains too many purely mechanical ball players to make a world beater out of it.

"Connie" Mack's team can be passed over at a glance so far as winning the pennant is concerned. Mack's men did that once, but at that time the rest of the teams were not as strong as they are to-day.

ATHLETICS IN FIRST DIVISION.

The Athletics should finish in the first four. That is as good as they should do on form, and if they are better than three-four, when plays are sounded in October, they will have fooled many of the fans.

From present indications it looks like Boston, New York, Cleveland and Philadelphia should comprise the four teams for the first division of the American League in 1904.

That distribution gives the Browns the call in fifth place, as they should be able to trim Chicago, Detroit and Washington. Weakness in the pitching department makes the local American Leaguers' lot a hard one.

There are good players on the team to give them a look-in with the best in the American League, but their pitchers are not heavy enough to class with the balance of the team.

McAleer's infield has done well since the beginning of the season.

Wallace is still the peerless ball player that he has been for the last half dozen years. Bobby is batting better, than he did last year, and this boost in his hitting has improved his playing all along the line.

Hill's absence from the game until the team reached Washington was badly felt. At that Hill is far from being right. Still he is a better ball player even when wrong than either Gleason or the lamented Demott when they were at their best.

Padden has regained much of his Chicago form. Dick's thumb is all to the good, and he is snapping them up around second with all the ginger of a youngster.

CHARLEY McFARLAND
PITCHER CARDINALS.

Jones has not batted up to his form so far, but since the team reached Washington Tom has taken a brace with the willow. On first base Jones has few superiors. He covers the bag in a knowing way, is fearless and handles himself well on all kinds of throws.

BROWNS' OUTFIELD IMPROVES.

In the outfield Hemphill and Heldrick are going well, but Burkett appears to have fallen back somewhat. Jesse, however, will come around all right when the weather gets a bit warmer. Hemphill's wonderful work with the stick has been pleasing the fans immensely. The Youngstown bowler is right. He has taken off that superfluous weight that he lugged around for four months of the campaign last year, and the reduction in weight has helped Charley wonderfully.

Had the Browns a better pitching staff they might give the leaders a tussle, but with their present staff it looks as though they are doomed to a second division place.

In the National League the race has assumed much interest, since the apparent slump of the once famous "Pirates."

At the present time the fans agree pretty well that Pittsburgh will not duplicate the feat of the once famous St. Louis Browns and annex four pennants.

But to say that Pittsburgh is out of the running because they have made a poor start would be a bit rash.

There are too many first-class ball players with the Pittsburgh team to class them as "an also ran."

PIRATES SHOULD FINISH WELL.

Pittsburgh is bound to make a strong finish. When the Pirates get going they will come down the stretch with the strides of McChesney, and the teams who figure Pittsburgh as a weak sister are liable to change their minds long before October.

Liever seems to have regained some of his old form. With Philippe and Liever to worry along with, the Pirates are a match for any team in the major league. That team is not out of the running yet.

The Cardinals' showing against the "Giants" has boosted their stock. New York is touted all along the baseball line as the sure winners of the 1904 handicap in the parent body.

Their showing here did not justify all the praise that has been heaped on McGraw's men. To many baseball men they seem much overrated. Barring their great pitching staff, the "Giants" do not show championship class.

At that, St. Louis's pitchers did much better against the "Giants" than McGraw's men. To many baseball men they seem much overrated. Barring their great pitching staff, the "Giants" do not show championship class.

Corbett outpitched McGinnity, but lost through poor fielding. Jack Taylor did better work than Luther Taylor, but a rank decision by Umpire Johnstone cost the locals the game, that should have gone to the credit of Jack instead of Luther Taylor.

Milligan and the Bucknell wonder were both well pounded, so that the local pitchers look even better than New York's famous trio.

To win the pennant, New York will have to play much better ball than they did here. The Cardinals did just as well as New York in their first series, although they were handicapped by mist umpiring.

CARDINALS PLAYING FAST BALL.

All of last week the Cardinals played a masterly article of baseball. Three errorless games in a row tell how well the locals behaved in the field. New York has not established a record as good as that this season. Right now the Cardinals are going better than any club in the National League, and if what the visiting clubs have shown here is a good sample of

BILLY GILBERT SECOND
BASE NEW YORK

what they have in stock, B. Stuart Muckelbauer has made a conservative rating in claiming the Cardinals are better, on the whole, than are New York's famous "Giants."

In nearly every position the Cardinals look strong. Burke on third is a much better ball player than his detractors would have anyone believe.

Tom Corbett's friend, Danny Shay, is a whirlwind, and no mistake about it. He covers as much ground as any of the great shortstops, is a whirlwind on the bases, and up to date his batting is all that could be wished for.

Farrell at second is showing much better than he did last year. The responsibility of leading the team on the field was not helped Beckley's playing any. Jake is a good ball player, but has not proven a very efficient field captain. He is apt to go up in the air too easy for a leader.

Jake, however, is saving the leather at a great clip and holding his position well.

Barclay's playing in left field has not been good. "Deerfoot" is not right. The Texas trip did him no good in 1903, and the 1904 trip seems to have hurt him more than the one in 1903.

Fortunately, however, the Cardinals have several players that can cover Barclay's garden in case the speedy little left fielder's health does not improve. Barclay needs a rest. He looks far from being a well-conditioned athlete. His skin has not the glow of health, nor has he the measured, elastic step that was his in 1902. When he is right Barclay is as great a player as any team could wish for, but right now Barclay is far from being right, and his playing is not helping the Cardinals toward first place.

At that the Messrs. Robinson's team looks better than any of the clubs, barring Cincinnati, that have shown here this spring. And it is even money betting that St. Louis finishes ahead of Cincinnati.

Age hath no terror for Denton Young, the pitcher of the Boston American League Club, otherwise known as "Cy."

Recently he shut out the Philadelphia American League nine without a run or a hit, and not a man on the opposing team got to first base.

This is the third time in the history of baseball that this feat has been accomplished.

The first pitcher to do it was John Montgomery Ward, in 1880. The same year Lee Richard, the first really phenomenal left-hand pitcher, succeeded in doing the same thing. Pitchers have not been aiming at the same mark ever since, for the very good reason that most pitchers thought it impossible.

"Cy" Young stumbled upon it the fifth day of May of this year. Don't construe the use of the word "stumbled" inaccurately, for Young pitched one of the greatest games that baseball ever saw. He had no notion when he began, however, that he could prevent every Philadelphia batsman from getting to first base.

If there is a character in baseball that deserves commendation it is that of Young. Rugged, honest, patient, persevering, dominated by no other idea than to be fair to all men, he is held in the highest esteem by those who have been privileged to make his acquaintance.

Back in the '80s there occasionally appeared in the newspapers of Cleveland and Pittsburgh reports of games in which an unknown by the name of Young was pitcher and won.

First he was a member of amateur clubs, then drifted into semiprofessional

teams as he grew better, and at last became one of the pitchers of the Canton, O., nine of the Tri-State League.

While a member of that team he made a record for strike-outs that never had been made before in the organization, and one evening a well-known traveling man and baseball enthusiast drifted into the Hawley House in Cleveland, as was his wont, and looked up Davis Hawley, one of the proprietors.

YOUNG GETS OPPORTUNITY.

"Dave," said he, "why don't you sign this fellow Young for the Cleveland club? You are badly in need of pitchers, and I tell you this chap is one of the greatest young pitchers who ever took part in a game. I've been down through the center of the State, and have had a chance to see him work two or three times—yes, more than that; half a dozen times—and there isn't the slightest question that he will hold his own in the National League."

So impressed was Mr. Hawley by the remarks of the gentleman, whom he knew to be a fair judge of ball players, that he talked the matter over with other members of the Cleveland directorate, and at last was decided to pay a quiet visit to one or two places where Young was to pitch and look him over.

The upshot of the matter was that an arrangement was made with Canton whereby Young came to the Cleveland club on trial.

CY'S FIRST IMPORTANT GAME.

He pitched his first game one August afternoon in 1890 against the Chicagoans. There was war in baseball that year, and the Cleveland clubs were not drawing any too well—they had both a National and brotherhood club in the city at the time.

So when Young was advertised to pitch for the Cleveland National League team an unusually large crowd went out to see the "phenom."

When it came time for the players to appear for practice there emerged from the Cleveland players' clubhouse a most strange and peculiarly draped figure. It was more than 6 feet tall, awkward, gawky and striding along with a bashful gait that provoked a titter from the bleachers. The knickerbockers worn evidently had belonged to some man at least five inches shorter. It was the fashion then to adorn ball players with uniforms made of Jersey cloth, and the shirt which enveloped the figure never was intended to encircle a torso six times too large for it. The sleeves reached up to the elbows,

and the body part was so tight that it threatened momentarily to burst. Adrian Constantine Anson, the Great was standing by the first base, and as he caught a glimpse of the figure he laughed

aloud and roared to one of the Cleveland players: "Hey, what is it? Is that your great phenomenon?"

It is quite needless to add that it was

Continued on Page Two.

MANAGER 'MUGGY' MCGRAW OF THE GIANTS

THE PITCHER, WHO SHUT PHILADELPHIA OUT WITHOUT A HIT.

"CY" YOUNG.

The pitcher, who shut Philadelphia out without a hit.